chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of, Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/ colomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR. An amount of Rs. 990.00 lakh has been released to Tamil Nadu under ISOPOM during 2004-05 for Oilseeds, Pulses, Maize and Oil Palm development programme.

The production of Oilseeds in Tamil Nadu during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given as under:—

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
2002-03	7.60
2003-04	9.99
2004-05	9.52 (III Advance Estimates)

(c) to (e) The Oilseeds Production Programmes are implemented by the state in the districts having potential for oilsees production. In Tamil Nadu all the districts, except Nilgiris and Kanyakumari districts, are covered under these programmes.

Importing Oil Seeds

3878. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) How far the recent statement by him for importing oilseeds including genetically modified seeds with high oil content, will result in reducing the cooking oil shortage and reduction in high prices as domestic demand rises;

(b) whether such isolated solution like increasing import would be of any substantial benefit or whether it requires a reorientation in the agriculture policy which will give major thrust to crop rotation, removing restrictions on movement of agricultural produce within the State only, and encouraging farmers easy access to advanced technologies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As the domestic demand for edible oils is around 10 million tonnes and domestic production of edible oils is around 7.5 million tonnes, the gap between demand and supply is met through import. However, to increase the production of oilseeds, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during Tenth Five Year Plan. The main objective of the scheme is to promote crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and pulses and also to provide flexibility to the States in implementation of the programme based on regionally differentiated approach. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solublising sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. in order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Reducing Agricultural Subsidy

3879. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is pressure on Government from International Organisation such as World Bank and IMF to reduce agricultural subsidy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even developed nations like US provide agricultural subsidies;

(c) if so, the reasons for insisting that our country should cut down the farm subsidy; and

(d) the view taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.